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SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD MASS

Tuesday July 7th, 2026

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Somerville Celebrates Disability Pride Month with Flag Raising, Family Celebration, ArtBeat Activities



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REQUIRE MORE PUBLIC DISCLOSURES OF FUNDRAISING AND SPENDING BY BALLOT QUESTION GROUPS



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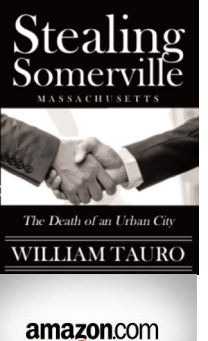


MOUNT VERNON RESTAURANT

We are open for indoor dining along with take out. Our business hours are Sunday through Wednesday 11:30am to 8:30pm and Thursday through Saturday 11:30am to 9:30pm. Our full menu along with our daily specials and catering menu is available. Join us inside to cheer on your favorite sports teams!



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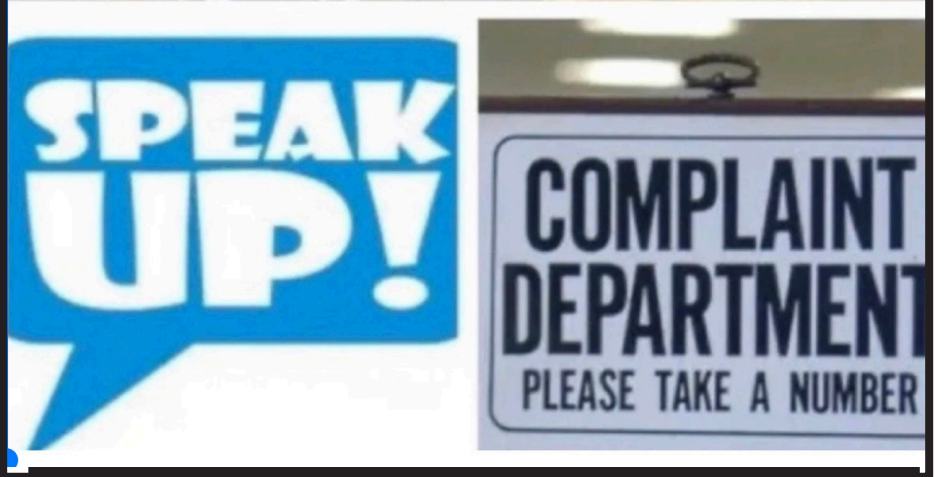
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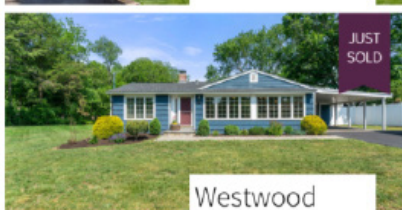
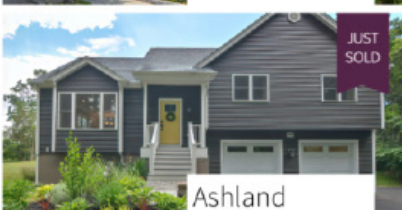
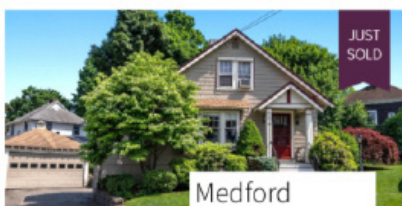
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MARKET ACTIVITY

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We have been busy, but never too busy for you! These four properties were sold in one month! If you see something you would like to know more about, have any questions or are thinking about buying or selling a property, please don't hesitate to send us an email or give us call!

Helen Praysman Broker Associate REALTOR®
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 Medford, MA 02155

If you have any questions email us at MHSVarsitySoftball22@gmail.com

MHS Varsity Softball is a non-profit organization in affiliation with Medford High School, our tax ID is listed below for your records.
 Tax ID 04-6601400

Artwork / Logos must be submitted to MHSVarsitySoftball22@gmail.com
 Deadline for artwork / logos is March 7th for full season exposure, any late submission banners will be hung starting tournament weekend.

Become A Medford Police Officer



NEW YEAR, NEW CAREER
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APPLICATION DEADLINE
 FEBRUARY 2, 2026

NOTICES TO APPEAR
 FEBRUARY 20, 2026

WRITTEN EXAM PERIOD
 MARCH 11-14, 2026

APPLY TODAY
WWW.MASS.GOV/CIVIL-SERVICE

In January 2025, the Civil Service introduced a new 'Hybrid Hiring Model' for departments under its purview. This model offers two distinct pathways to become an entry-level police officer:

1. Civil Service Exam Route: The first step in this pathway is taking the Massachusetts Civil Service Exam, which is now offered twice a year. Applications are NOW OPEN for the spring 2026 police officer entrance exam. Deadline to apply is February 2, 2026.
2. Getbadged Route: Apply directly through GetBadged.com. Visit GetBadged.com, create an account, and select your preferred exam date. This is on-going.

For more details and the next steps in the new hiring process, please visit our website at medfordpolice.com/becomeapoliceofficer.

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Somerville/Medford Remembering Ram Sarup Agnihotri



Obituary

Mr. Ram Sarup Agnihotri, of Somerville, passed away surrounded by the love of his family on July 5, 2026, he was 93. Born and raised in Rangilpur, Punjab, India; he was the son of the late Saraswati (Devi) and Keshoram Agnihotri. The eldest of his four siblings, he became the patriarch of the family at a young age

following the loss of his mother, helping raise and guide them. He came to the United States in 2000 and settled in Somerville.

The beloved husband of the late Raj Maya (Chand) Agnihotri, who passed in December of last year. He was the devoted father of Yash Pal Agnihotri and his wife Manju, Lalit Agnihotri and his wife

Seema, Gulshan Sharma and her husband Rajesh, all of New Delhi, India and Durgesh Joshi and her husband Baij of Arlington. Cherished grandfather of Gunjan, Dakshaa, Karishma, Akash, Nidhi and Isha.

Highly energized, Ram enjoyed daily yoga and long walks, often for many miles. Ram will be re-

membered by his family for strong will power and independence.

Funeral Services will be held on Thursday, July 9th at Mount Auburn Cemetery, 580 Mount Auburn Street, Cambridge beginning at 9:00AM in the Bigelow Chapel, followed by cremation at 10:00AM. Relatives and friends invited to attend.

Somerville/Medford Remembering Charles B. McAveaney Jr



Obituary

Charles B. McAveaney Jr., age 78, passed away on July 1, 2026. Born in Malden, he was the beloved son of the late Arlene (Syda) McAveaney and Charles B. McAveaney.

Charles dedicated 20 years

of his career to Digital Equipment Corporation and later continued his professional life in Information Technology with the United States Government.

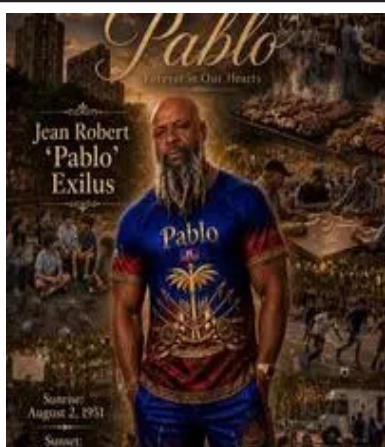
He was the dear brother of Joan McAveaney of Wakefield, Carol Bellavance

of Andover, and the late Elizabeth Gosselin and Kenneth McAveaney. He was a loving uncle to Paul Bellavance Jr. and his wife, Dodie, of West Roxbury.

Visitation for relatives and friends will be held at the George L. Doherty Funeral Home, 855 Broadway

(Powder House Square), Somerville, on Monday, July 13th, from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM, followed by a Prayer Service at 12:30 PM. Services will conclude with burial at St. Patrick Cemetery in Watertown.

Somerville/Medford Remembering Jean Robert "Pablo" Exilus



Obituary

Jean Robert "Pablo" Exilus, passed away in the Dominican Republic on June 16, 2026, he was 74. Jean was married to the late Ninie Exilus. He was the father of Tamara Exilus and Jeffrey Exilus, and

the proud grandfather of Serena, Xavier, and Jeffrey Exilus Jr. He leaves behind many other loving family members and friends.

Visiting Hours will be held in the George L. Doherty Funeral Home, 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.)

Somerville on Friday, July 10th from 5:00PM ~ 7:00PM. Relatives and friends invited to attend. And again on Saturday morning, July 10th in St. John the Evangelist Church, 2254 Massachusetts Ave, North Cambridge, MA from 9:00AM

- 10:00AM, followed by a Funeral Mass celebrated at 10:00AM.

Services will conclude with burial at St. Michael Cemetery, Boston.

Somerville/Medford Remembering Andrea A. (Chiarolanza) Manganiello



Obituary

Andrea A. (Chiarolanza) Manganiello - Of Medford, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, July 1, 2026 with her beloved family by her side after a courageous battle with cancer. She was 62 years young.

Born and raised in Somerville, Andrea was the devoted daughter of Lillian (Leone) Chiarolanza and the late Vincent Chiarolanza.

Andrea was a deeply gener-

ous and caring person who found joy in helping others. She was always thinking of those she loved and making sure everyone around her felt supported and cared for.

She loved family traditions and holidays, especially Christmas, her favorite time of year. Andrea also enjoyed shopping, often browsing her favorite stores, especially L.L. Bean, always searching for the perfect gift or special find.

Andrea especially cherished time spent with her family, creating lasting memories filled with laughter, games, and her beloved Easter egg hunts for both children and "grown kids" alike.

She found joy in life's simple pleasures, especially the quiet evenings she shared with Eddie. They loved watching

their favorite show Hudson & Rex, the story of a detective and his loyal canine partner, as well as cheering on their favorite wrestling matches.

Above all else, Andrea cherished her family. She treasured every moment spent with them, especially her nieces and nephews, who brought her endless joy. Her love also extended to her adored fur nephew, Sully, whom she spoiled with affection whenever she had the chance.

Nothing, however, compared to the love she shared with her beloved husband, Eddie. They were true partners in life, and simply being together brought Andrea a sense of peace, comfort, and happiness. Their love was the foundation of her life, and the beautiful memories they

shared together will forever be treasured by Eddie and by all who knew and loved them

Beloved wife of 35 years of Edward "Eddie" Manganiello. Devoted sister of Paul Chiarolanza and his wife Sally and Linda O'Brien and her husband James. Cherished aunt to Jennifer Delaney and her husband Mark, Matthew O'Brien and his partner Stephen Kane, Anthony Chiarolanza and his wife Hannah, Alysa Robbins and her husband Cameron, Anna Drogan and her husband Andrew and her fur nephew Sullivan "Sully" O'Brien. Loving sister-in-law of Angela Manganiello and Germina Manganiello. Dear daughter-in-law of the late Antonietta Manganiello. Also survived by many loving extended family members and friends.

A prayer service will be held in the George L. Doherty Funeral Home 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) on Wednesday, July 8th at 1:00PM.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

Calling Hours will be held prior to the prayer service Wednesday morning from 11:00AM to 1:00PM.

Services will conclude with interment at Oak Grove Cemetery, Medford.



Trade Pavement for Plants: Apply for an East Somerville Cooling Grant



gives East Somerville residents a practical way to cool their homes and yards, add more greenery, and help make the neighborhood more resilient summer by summer.”

How the Program Works
East Somerville residents with a paved driveway, paved yard, or similar paved area on their property are encouraged to reach out to the City to apply for the program and schedule an initial site visit.

If a property is eligible and conditionally accepted, Green & Open Somerville will work with the resident to remove the pavement. Green & Open Somerville will coordinate volunteers, dumpster permits and fees, and food for volunteers. Residents will then work with City staff

to decide what to plant in the new garden area. After planting, residents may receive reimbursement for eligible garden costs, up to \$5,000.

Go to voice.somervillema.gov/cooling-east-somerville to learn more and apply. Interested residents can also contact Elyse Belarge at ebelarge@somerville-ma.gov or 781-823-9332.

About the Cooling East Somerville Project
Paved surfaces like concrete and asphalt can be up to 10 degrees Fahrenheit hotter than nearby unpaved, vegetated areas. Removing pavement and adding trees and plants can help provide shade, reduce heat around homes, improve air quality, support birds and pollinators, and create more attractive outdoor

space. Through the Cooling East Somerville project, SED is helping residents reduce heat on their properties, create more usable green space, and support a cooler, healthier neighborhood.

Cooling East Somerville is funded by the Barr Foundation and led by Cambridge Health Alliance, CultureHouse, and the City of Somerville. The program uses a multi-tiered approach to address heat risks at the individual, community, and built environment levels so residents can stay safer during summer heat.

East Somerville residents can receive up to \$5,000 to remove asphalt or concrete and add trees, plants, and shade

SOMERVILLE – The City of Somerville’s Sustainability and Environment Division (SED) is now accepting applications for Cooling East Somerville, offering eligible East Somerville res-

idents up to \$5,000 to remove pavement from their property and replace it with shade trees, plants, and other cooling landscape improvements.

“Extreme heat is not just uncomfortable. It’s a real public health risk, and we know that heavily paved areas feel that risk more intensely,” said Mayor Jake Wilson. “This program

REQUIRE MORE PUBLIC DISCLOSURES OF FUNDRAISING AND SPENDING BY BALLOT QUESTION GROUPS (H 5549)



By Bob Katzen

House 149-0, approved a bill requiring more frequent public

reporting of fundraising and spending by groups supporting or opposing ballot questions. Under the bill, ballot question committees would be required to provide monthly reports on their finances. After September of that year, campaigns would have to file biweekly reports until Election Day. The bill would hold ballot question campaigns to the same standard of disclosure already followed by candidates for office. Currently, ballot committees don’t have to report on their finances between Jan. 20 and September.

The bill also establishes a thirteen-member special legislative commission to conduct a

comprehensive review of the statewide initiative petition process and to submit recommendations, including proposed constitutional amendments where appropriate, by December 31, 2027.

The Senate has approved its own version of the measure, and the House version now goes to the Senate for consideration.

“This Act will bring ballot question committees and their campaign reporting requirements in line with the reporting schedule that we, as duly elected representatives of the people, adhere to,” said Rep. Dan Ryan

(D-Boston), primary House sponsor of the bill. “These requirements allow voters to see who is influencing the messages they are hearing leading up to Election Day.”

“Massachusetts voters deserve to know who is behind the campaigns asking for their vote,” said Rep. Daniel Hunt (D-Boston), House Chair of the Committee on Election Laws. “This legislation ensures voters have access to timely, meaningful information before they head to the polls, helping cut through the confusion that can surround statewide ballot question campaigns. By modernizing reporting require-

ments, increasing transparency, strengthening accountability and making campaign finance information easier to access, we are giving voters the tools they need to make informed decisions and greater confidence in the integrity of our elections.”

(A Yes” vote is for the bill.)

Rep. Christine Barber Yes Rep. Mike Connolly Yes Rep. Paul Donato Yes Rep. Erika Uyertho-even Yes

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BAN MEDICAL DEBT FROM BEING REPORTED TO CONSUMER CREDIT AGENCIES

By Bob Katzen

A proposed regulation filed by Gov. Healey and the Department of Public Health (DPH) would prohibit licensed health care providers and debt collectors working on their behalf from reporting medical debt to credit bureaus. Supporters said this will help protect patients from long-term financial harm after an unexpected illness or medical emergency.

“Getting sick is hard enough.”

said Healey. “It shouldn’t ruin your credit. No one should have to worry that seeing a doctor, filling a prescription or taking their child to the emergency room will damage their financial future. Medical debt shouldn’t make it harder to buy a home, rent an apartment or get a loan years after you’ve recovered and when you’re working hard to make your payments. This action will help protect patients while we continue our work to lower health care costs and ensure all Massachusetts resi-

dents can afford to get the care they need when they need it.”

“Today’s action by the governor is a much needed first step in preventing disastrous debt spirals,” said Health and Human Services Secretary Kiame Mahaniah. “Families in Massachusetts should be able to access the health care they need free from the worry that their credit could be ruined – potentially impacting their housing and other finances. Regardless of the federal government’s approach, in Mas-

sachusetts we’re committed to building a more affordable, more sustainable health care system that puts consumers first.”

The Department is now accepting written public comments on the proposed regulations and will hold public hearings on July 27 and 28 before finalizing the rules. After these hearings, the Department will evaluate all comments received and finalize the proposed regulation.

For more information or to sign up to testify remotely and/or with written testimony, go to: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/medical-debt-reporting-requirements-for-health-care-facilities-and-providers-licensed-by-the-department-of-public-health>

CHANGE “HEARING IMPAIRED” TO “DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING” (S 3142)

By Bob Katzen

The House gave initial approval to a measure, already approved by the Senate on June 23, that would strike outdated language from state laws that refer to people who are deaf or hard of hearing as being “hearing impaired.” The legislation replaces the term “hearing impaired” with the phrase “deaf or hard of hearing.”

The Senate bill was sponsored by Sen. Cindy Creem (D-Newton). “Words shape how we see one another, and our laws are no exception,” said Creem when the Senate first approved the measure on June 23. “This bill takes a simple but important step toward ensuring that the words we use reflect respect, accuracy and the preferences of the communities they describe. I’m proud the

Senate is taking decisive action to help modernize our statutes and affirm the dignity of deaf and hard of hearing individuals across Massachusetts, and I’m grateful to the students of Newton’s CAPS Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program for bringing this issue to my attention.”

“Members of the deaf and hard-of-hearing community have been advocating for this change for years,

and they made a compelling case that the language currently found in our laws no longer reflects the people it is meant to describe,” said Sen. Nick Collins (D-South Boston) when the measure was considered by the Senate. “This legislation makes a commonsense update to our statutes and reflects the respect that community deserves. Our laws should evolve alongside the people they

serve, and it is important that the language we use reflects both the dignity of all residents and the commonwealth’s commitment to treating every person with respect. It is a small change on paper, but an important step in ensuring our laws continue to reflect the values of Massachusetts.”

MEDFORD VFW POST 1012 HAS A NEW COMMANDER

Congratulations to The Medford VFW on its new Installation of Commander Steve McLaughlin as he takes charge.

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and absolutely worth checking them out!” Somerville/Medford News Weekly/Boston News Group

State of A Tavola:

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dia channels. Please stay tuned for any and all details.

As always our gift cards will be available through our website, over the phone and in person. Starting Tuesday, for every gift card purchase over \$100, we will add an additional \$20 gift card as a way to thank you for your support.

If there is anything in particular you would like to see from us or if you need help preparing food at home for your families

please reach out and we will do our best to help. Whether it be recipe ideas with random things you might have purchased or if you run out of something that you need that we can help with please don’t hesitate to ask.

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Thank you for your continued support.



\$63.4 BILLION FISCAL 2027 STATE BUDGET (H 5555)



By Bob Katzen

House 142-6, Senate 39-1, approved and sent to Gov. Maura Healey a \$63.4 billion fiscal 2027 conference committee version of a state budget for the fiscal year that began July 1, 2026. The House and Senate had approved different versions of the budget and a conference committee hammered out this compromise version. The price tag is 4 percent higher than last year's package.

"Our budget is a chance each year to make life more affordable for residents while strengthening the public services we all rely on, including our schools and transit systems—and the Senate delivered for fiscal year 2027," said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland). "As a longtime advocate for

expanded public education from cradle to career, I am especially proud of our commitment to reexamining how we address K-12 costs at the very moment we fulfill the promise of the Student Opportunity Act. Overall, this final budget protects our residents, grows opportunities, supports our municipalities and cuts costs for individuals and families."

"As a result of the Trump Administration's sweeping federal funding cuts, reckless trade policies and war with Iran, this budget has come during a period of significant economic uncertainty." Said House Speaker Ron Mariano (D-Quincy). "That's why I'm incredibly proud of the investments that this budget makes despite those challenges, from funding for free school meals and for the final year of the

Student Opportunity Act, to robust support for the MBTA, to nearly \$10 billion for cities and towns across the commonwealth – all without raising taxes."

"Grounded in fiscal responsibility, the fiscal year 2027 budget leads with a steady hand and delivers a spending plan that does not raise any taxes or fees on residents and businesses of the commonwealth, while making major investments in education and local aid, emphasizing our continuing commitment to supporting all 351 cities and towns," said Sen. Mike Rodrigues (D-Westport), Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means.

Not everyone agreed.

"At a time when Massachusetts families and small businesses are pleading for affordability and meaningful tax relief, this budget delivers virtually neither," said Sen. Ryan Fattman (R-Sutton). "Instead, it continues the commonwealth's perpetuated pattern of unsustainable spending growth while failing to prioritize the core services that residents rely on every day. Our focus should be on strengthening local communities, supporting

municipal services, improving public safety and providing relief to hardworking taxpayers—not funding special interest initiatives such as legal defense funds for individuals who are unlawfully present in our state. Massachusetts can and must do better. We should be delivering a budget that reflects fiscal responsibility, affordability and the priorities of the people we were elected to serve. For those reasons, I was compelled to vote No."

"Legislative leaders will point to a smaller rate of spending growth as evidence of fiscal restraint, but the underlying budget tells a different story," said Paul Craney, executive director of the Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance. "Rather than confronting structural spending problems, this budget depends on one-time funding sources and accounting shifts while continuing to expand programs that will place increasing pressure on taxpayers in the years ahead. Massachusetts has benefited for years from generous federal funding while failing to improve oversight and accountability. As those federal dollars become less certain, taxpayers could be left paying the price for years of poor

fiscal management."

"The State Legislature did it again—they passed a budget that prioritizes illegals over middle-class taxpayers, failed to do anything about the cost of living and neglected to provide any tax relief," said Rep. John Gaskey (R-Carver). "That's why I unapologetically voted No on this boondoggle. Billions of dollars continue to flow to those who broke the law to come here. If you come to Massachusetts illegally, you can get legal counsel, shelter—even college tuition paid for on the taxpayers' dime. That money is coming at the expense of local aid to our town governments. At a time when municipalities across the state are strapped and facing property tax overrides, the State Legislature preferred to shift aid from local government and instead give it to illegals."

(A "Yes" vote is for the budget. A "No" vote is against it.)

Rep. Christine Barber Yes Rep. Mike Connolly Yes Rep. Paul Donato Yes Rep. Erika Uyterhoeven Yes Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

Somerville ArtBeat Festival to Fill Davis Square with Crafts, Food & Performance on July 18



City's marquee festival to feature 70 craft vendors, live music all day, dance showcase, town crier, community parade, and more

SOMERVILLE—Community members are invited to "ArtBeat 2026: REvolution" on Saturday, July 18, from 12 to 9 p.m. in Davis

Square (rain date: Sunday, July 19). Admission is free and open to all.

Now in its 40th year, ArtBeat is one of Somerville's largest festivals, transforming Davis Square into a bustling celebration of creativity and community. The festival will feature over 70 craft vendors, multiple food vendors, two performance stages showcasing a dynamic mix of music, dance, theater, literary readings, and interactive activities—all highlighting Somerville's diverse and vibrant arts scene.

This year's theme, "REvolution," honors the 250th anniversary of the United States while inviting artists and attendees to creatively explore the spirit of transformation and challenging the status quo. Streets will be hopping with vendors, roaming performers (even a town crier!), and music from 12 to 7 p.m. At 5 p.m., a REvolutionary parade will lead attendees from the Elm Street stage to Seven Hills Park, where music will continue until 9 p.m. Keep cool throughout by filling up your water bottle at the water buggy in Davis Sq., set up your umbrella on the Seven

Hills Park lawn, or visit a shade tent near the Elm St. Stage, in Seven Hills Park, and near the main traffic island in Davis Square.

"This summer is chock-full of celebrating the people, places, and connections that make Somerville unique, and the return of ArtBeat makes it all the more special," said Mayor Jake Wilson. "I can't wait to experience the talent of our local creatives and their interpretations of where we've been and where we're headed."

The event takes place throughout Davis Square,

including Seven Hills Park, Elm Street, and Holland Street, which will be closed to traffic. Find photos, descriptions, and start times for all ArtBeat performers at: bit.ly/artbeat2026.

More Information For all ArtBeat information, please visit: bit.ly/artbeat2026.

MBTA Bus Information MBTA Buses Routes: 87, 88, 89, 90, 94, and 96 will be rerouted from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Please see mbta.com for full detour information.

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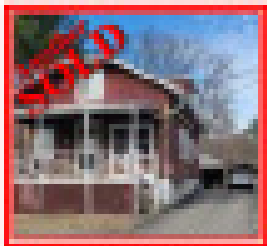
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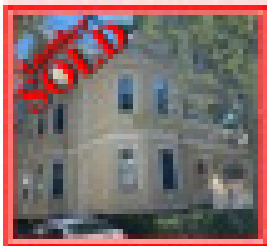


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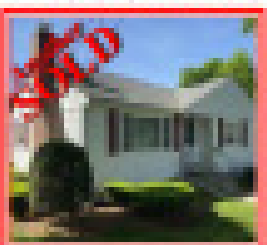
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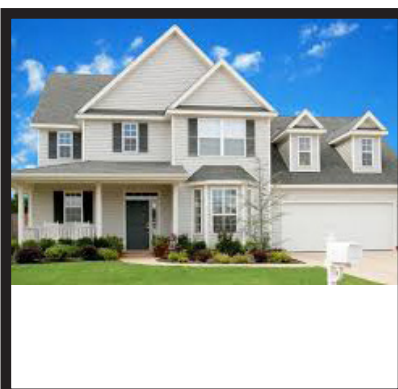
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Out dosage continued from page 2



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Class Action Lawsuit Regarding Fraudulent and Inaccurate Somerville Water Bills

By William Tauro

We are looking for residents interested to being part of a class action lawsuit to help Somerville home owners, property owners, residents and tenants to obtain the justice they deserve after being victims of fraudulent and/or inaccurate outrageously high water bills caused by faulty water meters and

inaccurate readings.

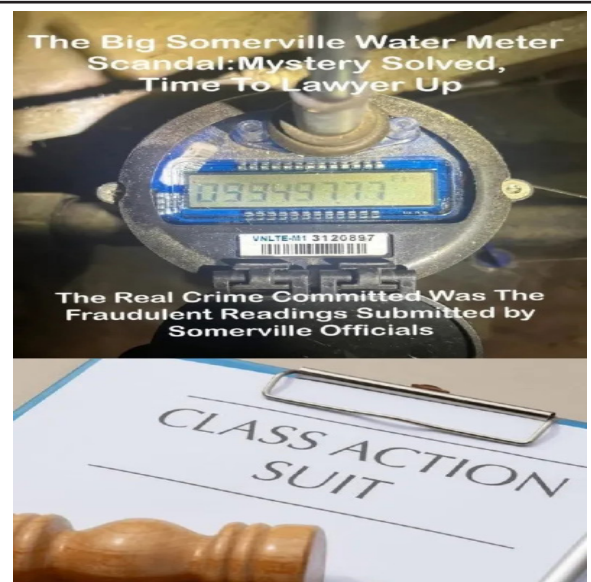
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Somerville/Medford Remembering Catherine O'Regan



Catherine O'Regan, known lovingly to family and friends as Kate, passed away on June 20, 2026, at the age of 84.

Born on July 31, 1941, in Dublin, Ireland, one of 12 siblings, Kate carried the warmth, resilience, and

spirit of her Irish roots throughout her life. She was a woman of deep kindness and steady grace, and she touched the lives of many with her generous heart and thoughtful nature.

Kate built a life centered on care, family, and meaningful connection. She worked as a Home Health Aide, a role that reflected her natural compassion and her desire to help others live with dignity and comfort. Through her work, she offered not only practical support, but also companionship, encouragement, and reassurance. She had a gift for making people feel seen and valued, and that gift served her well in both her professional life and her personal relationships. Her work was never just a

job to her. It was an extension of who she was, and she carried out her responsibilities with patience, reliability, and heart.

Family was the greatest joy of Kate's life. She is survived by her devoted husband, Jim, her beloved daughter, Tara, and her son-in-law, Frank, whom she absolutely adored. Her love for them was constant and unwavering.

Kate also enjoyed the simple pleasures that made life bright. She loved playing bingo, where she found both fun and fellowship, and she enjoyed traveling back to Ireland and visiting Australia to see her sisters and brothers.

Those who knew Kate will remember her for her gentle manner, her spirited personality, and the kindness she extended so freely to others. She had a way of making people feel at ease, and her sincerity left a lasting impression. Her laughter, her wisdom, and her steady presence enriched the lives of those around her. She will be remembered not only for what she did, but for who she was, a loving woman whose life was marked by care, dignity, and quiet strength.

Kate's passing leaves a deep sadness in the hearts of those who loved her, but her memory will remain a source of comfort and gratitude. She lived a full and meaningful life, and she leaves behind a legacy of love that will endure. Her family

and friends will continue to hold her close in their hearts, remembering her with affection and respect.

Kate is also survived by sisters Ann (Dublin) and Joan (Australia), brothers and sisters in law, and many nieces and nephews

Kate's wake and funeral mass will be held on Saturday, July 11, 2026, at Saint Peter Parish, 100 Concord Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02138. Wake will be from 10:00 to 11:00 and funeral mass to immediately follow at 11:00. Mass will be live streamed for those who wish to pray with us but are unable to attend in person. <https://saintpetercambridge.org/live-stream/>

Somerville/Medford Remembering Ram Sarup Agnihotri



Obituary Mr. Ram Sarup Agnihotri, of Somerville, passed away surrounded by the love of his family on July 5, 2026, he was 93. Born and raised in Rangilpur, Punjab, India; he was the son of the late Saraswati (Devi) and Keshoram Agnihotri. The eldest of his four siblings, he became the patriarch of the family at a young age following the loss of his mother, helping raise and guide them.

He came to the United States in 2000 and settled in Somerville.

The beloved husband of the late Raj Maya (Chand) Agnihotri, who passed in December of last year. He was the devoted father of Yash Pal Agnihotri and his wife Manju, Lalit Agnihotri and his wife Seema, Gulshan Sharma and her husband Rajesh, all of New Delhi, India

and Durgesh Joshi and her husband Baij of Arlington. Cherished grandfather of Gunjan, Dakshaa, Karishma, Akash, Nidhi and Isha.

Highly energized, Ram enjoyed daily yoga and long walks, often for many miles. Ram will be remembered by his family for strong will power and independence.

Funeral Services will be held on Thursday, July 9th at Mount Auburn Cemetery, 580 Mount Auburn Street, Cambridge beginning at 9:00AM in the Bigelow Chapel, followed by cremation at 10:00AM. Relatives and friends invited to attend.

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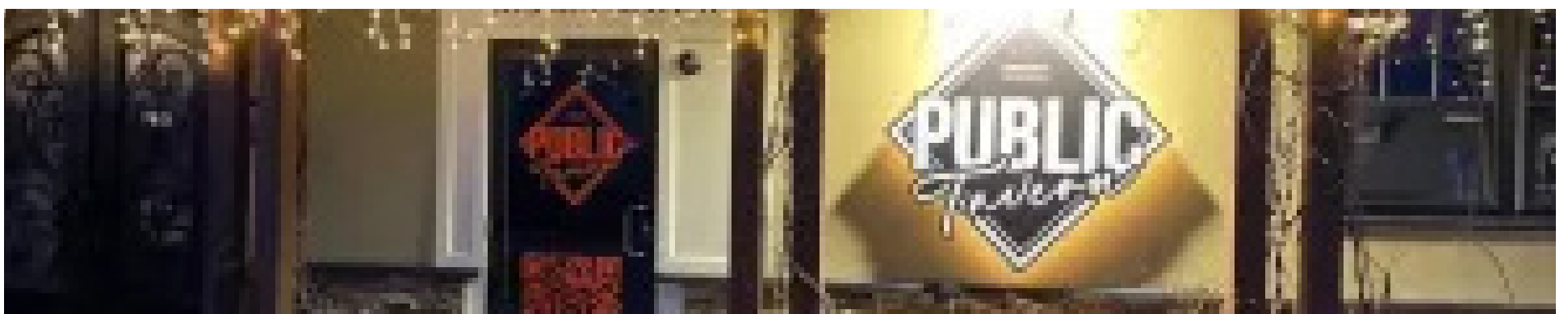
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THIS WEEK'S QUOTABLE QUOTES ON BEACON HILL

Quotable Quotes



By Bob Katzen

“We are thrilled to award grants to this latest group of nonprofit organizations. Together, these organizations will pay almost \$275,000 less in electricity costs each year, providing more financial resources for their important missions.
— Energy Resources Commissioner Elizabeth Mahony announcing a \$2.4 million grant that

will help ten nonprofit organizations install rooftop solar systems that will reduce each organization’s electricity costs by between 70 and 100 percent, resulting in more resources for the nonprofits’ critical work.

“Massachusetts is uniquely positioned to lead the next generation of defense innovation because of the strength of our companies, research institutions,

entrepreneurs and workforce. The report lays out a strategy to bring those partners together, grow the defense ecosystem, advance critical technologies and create high-quality jobs across the commonwealth.”
—Economic Development Secretary Eric Paley on the Healey Administration releasing the Strategic Hub for Innovation, Exchange and Leadership in Defense (SHIELD) report, a state-wide strategy to strength-

en Massachusetts’ defense innovation ecosystem, drive economic growth, create high-quality jobs and reinforce national security.

“As fantasy contests and the online sports gaming landscape continue to evolve, our regulations must evolve with them. These updated regulations strengthen consumer protections, promote fairness and assure Massachusetts residents that they can participate in fantasy contests knowing that appropriate safeguards are in place.”

—Attorney General Andrea Campbell announcing that she has released for comment, updated Fantasy Contest Regulations to protect Massachusetts consumers from unfair and deceptive practices that may arise in connection with fantasy contests, while also safeguarding families from financial harm that can

result from unaffordable losses.

“Every family deserves access to affordable, high-quality childcare, and every child deserves the strong start that comes with it. This investment will help more families get off waitlists and into the childcare programs they need so parents can work, children can learn and our economy can continue to grow. We’re proud to have delivered on historic investments in childcare affordability with the Legislature, and we know there is more work to be done. We’re going to keep working to lower costs, expand access and support the providers who make it all possible.”

—Gov. Healey announcing a \$31.2 million investment to help families afford childcare and get off waitlists through the Child Care Financial Assistance Program.

BIOMASS (S 3143)

By Bob Katzen

Senate 35-4, approved an amendment that would remove woody biomass as an eligible fuel under the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Standard for Massachusetts municipal light plants. Supporters explained that while biomass was removed from the state’s Renewable Portfolio Standard in 2022 because it is not considered clean energy, it remained eligible under a separate section of state law governing municipal light plants. They said the amendment would close that inconsistency by ensuring public clean energy standards are aligned with current science and Massachusetts climate policy, preventing municipal light plants from counting electricity generated by burning woody biomass toward their greenhouse gas reduction requirements.

“For too long, Massachu-

setts law treated a polluting energy source as if it were clean,” said amendment sponsor Sen. Adam Gomez (D-Springfield). “This amendment closes that loophole, aligns our statutes with science and ensures our clean energy policies reflect our climate commitments and environmental justice values. It’s an important step for communities like Springfield that have spent years fighting to protect public health and cleaner air.”

Opponents of the amendment did not respond to repeated requests by Beacon Hill Roll Call asking them why they opposed the amendment.

(A “Yes” vote is for the amendment removing woody biomass as an eligible fuel. A “No” vote is against the amendment.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

ILLUMINATING PUBLIC SPACES (S 3145)

By Bob Katzen

Senate 39-0, approved and sent to the House a bill that supporters say would improve how public spaces are illuminated and would help protect public health and safety; reduce energy consumption; safeguard wildlife and ecosystems; and lower long-term costs for municipalities.

Provisions include requiring all new and replacement publicly funded outdoor lighting fixtures to meet industry standards and best practices for reducing light pollution and minimizing glare; directing the Department of Energy Resources to establish regulations governing the brightness, shielding and design of public outdoor lighting; establishing a cheaper electric rate for low-wattage street lamps which would help cities and towns trim their electric costs if they use the low-wattage lights; cutting down on extra light poles to ensure the number of streetlamps

along a roadway matches the level needed for traffic and pedestrian safety; and exempting light fixtures related to safety or security needs, including lights related to aviation and nautical safety, and temporary emergency, repair and construction lighting.

“Light pollution poses real challenges for public health, public safety and environmental protection,” said sponsor Senate Majority Leader Cindy Creem (D-Newton). “It can disrupt sleep, create dangerous glare for drivers and pedestrians, waste energy and interfere with wildlife and natural ecosystems. [The bill] is a common-sense measure that will help municipalities save money, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve public lighting by prioritizing warmer, properly shielded fixtures.”

“This legislation strikes a vital balance of reducing unnecessary light pollution, conserving energy, and protecting both wild-

life and the night sky,” said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland). “By introducing a lower electric rate for streetlights, mandating fully shielded fixtures and setting a warmer color temperature, we’re helping cities and towns cut costs while improving public safety and environmental health. It’s a cost-effective, science-based step to ensure future lighting installations respect our dark skies—and to ensure future generations are able to experience the natural wonder of gazing up at our starry skies.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the bill.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes



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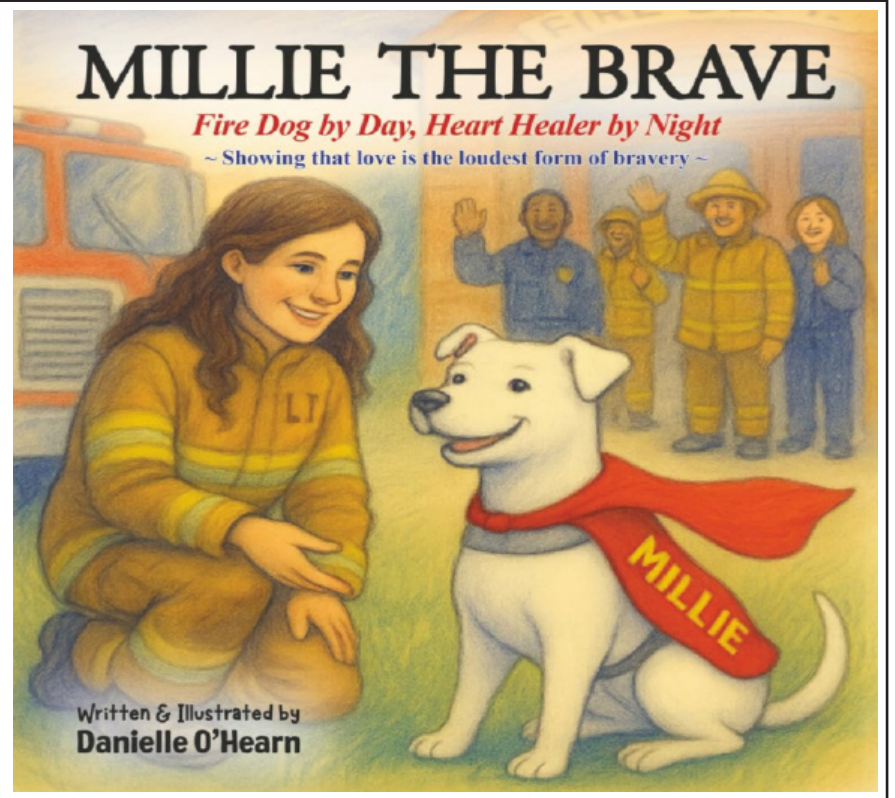
Dear Billy T and Somerville/Medford News Weekly Speakup Line,

Hey Billy
 My name is Danielle we've met a few times before, I'm a firefighter in Somerville. I just came out with a children's book.

It's about my dog Millie it was a real life, first responder therapy, dog and rescue and her adventures in firefighting and being a therapy dog. I know you have a huge following. Any shout out about the book would be greatly appreciated. It's available currently on Amazon and hopefully in bookstore soon. Thanks Billy!

Here's the link the title is Millie the brave

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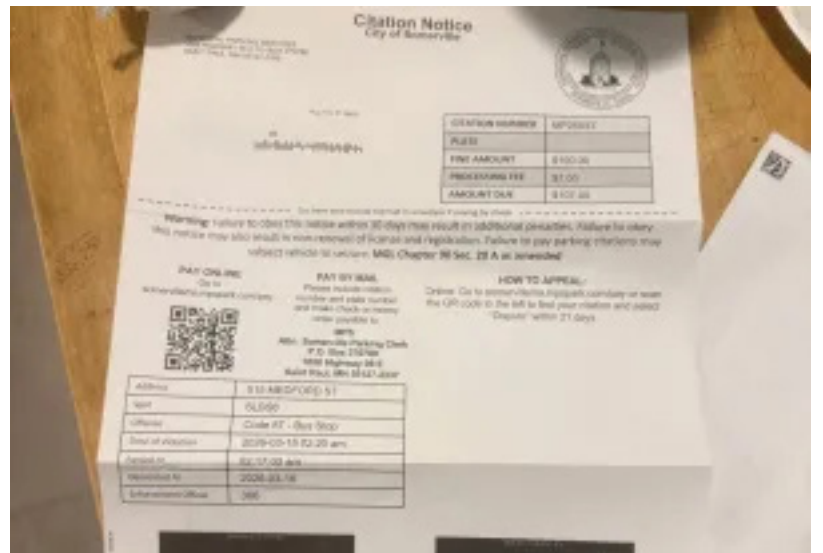


Somerville/Medford News Weekly Speakup Line: Fake Somerville Bills

Dear Billy T and Somerville/Medford News Weekly Speakup Line,

Billy, please post this in your news paper and online. A Somerville resident received this notice in the mail.

It's almost believable with the exception of the payment address, the photo is incorrectly poised. Please warn residents to ignore this fake notice it's a scam. If you can highlight the areas that prove it's fraud



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Don't Fire Up the Grill on a Porch or Balcony this Summer, Warns Somerville Fire Department



SFD Issues Annual Reminder: Grills are banned on porches and balconies in Somerville due to fire risk

Nearly 75% of grilling fires in Massachusetts over past decade occurred between May and August

SOMERVILLE— Somerville's iconic porches and balconies are more than

just a great place to enjoy the summer – in a densely built city, they also pose a unique fire hazard during grilling season. That's why each summer, when the majority of grilling fires occur statewide, the Somerville Fire Department reminds the community that grilling (or use of smokers) is not allowed on porches and balconies or within 10 feet of a building – and propane tanks cannot be stored in or on residential buildings.

Nearly 75% of grilling fires in Massachusetts over the past 10 years have occurred between May and August, and outdoor cooking fires cause injuries and property damage every year across the state. Somerville has additional risk. With an older housing stock, mostly constructed of wood-frame units built closely together, outdoor fires can easily spread to other homes and properties.

Always call 911 if you see uncontained flames or smoke. "Every year we see grilling-related fires, and when they involve illegal grilling on porches and balconies, they can quickly get very dangerous. Having an open flame so close to wooden porch frames is unsafe, and with so many of our homes so close to each other, fires can quickly jump to the next property. You're not just protecting yourself by following the rules, you are protecting your neighbors, too" said Assistant Fire Chief Sean Tierney. "We need everyone to commit to safely using and storing grilling equipment to help prevent outdoor fires and ensure a safe summer."

In Somerville, grills and smokers are not allowed on porches, balconies, fire escapes, or roofs. Outdoor fireplaces, fire pits, and chimineas are also always prohibited in the City in all locations.

Safe Cooking
Charcoal, wood, and propane grills are not allowed on porches, balconies, fire escapes, roofs, or decks with a roof, overhang, or wall. This includes grills, hibachis, barbecues, and smokers. Grilling should only be done outdoors, at ground level, 10 feet from structures, and never under overhangs or branches. All cooking fires should be on a charcoal briquette grill or propane gas grill. Never leave a grill burning unattended. Keep children and pets away from grills, matches or lighters, and lighter fluid. Children should never play near grills or propane cylinders.

Safe Storage and Cleanup
Propane tanks cannot be stored in or on residential buildings. Dispose of ashes from grills in a metal

can, douse them with water, and cover with a tight-fitting lid. Ashes can remain hot enough to ignite combustibles long after the fire goes out. Never dump them outdoors or place them inside a building or in the trash and never place them in a combustible container or paper bag. Always clean your grill after use to help prevent grease fires.

To report improper use of a grill or outdoor burning violations, call the SFD at 617-623-1500. For more grilling safety information, visit mass.gov/info-details/grilling-safety.

GAS LINE EXTENSIONS (S 3143)

By Bob Katzen

Senate 19-20, barely rejected an amendment that supporters said would end ratepayer-backed subsidies for new gas line extension allowances. They noted that the current system allows utilities to distort the market and undermine competition by charging ratepayers for costly new gas connection infrastructure, which ratepayers pay for decades in their utility bills. They

argued that ending these subsidies will help reduce costs for ratepayers while allowing lower-cost clean energy alternatives to compete on a level playing field, including electrifying the grid in new neighborhoods, and the use of heat pumps and solar panels in homes. "I voted for this amendment because if Massachusetts is really serious about meeting its carbon emissions reductions

goals, while also delivering long-term energy savings to residents, we need more tools in the toolbox to end the continued expansion of costly gas infrastructure, which we all pay for decades," said Sen. Jamie Eldridge (D-Marlborough). "I do not support subsidizing utility companies to maintain the status quo, while climate change continues to bring weather extremes, infrastructure damage and ever-rising

electric bills to Massachusetts residents." "The bill contains provisions that should produce significant energy cost savings for residents," said Sen. John Keenan (D-Quincy). "I voted against the amendment to ensure that the commonwealth will build all new types of housing, including affordable housing, as part of an overall approach that balances mitigating the effects of

climate change on the one hand and incentivizing needed residential development on the other." (A "Yes" vote is for the amendment. A "No" vote is against it.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

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TOXIC MEDICAL DEVICES (H 5550)

By Bob Katzen

House 139-0, approved a bill that would ban the use of DEHP, a toxic chemical which is commonly added to plastic intravenous bags and tubing and linked to breast, liver, lung and testicular cancer. Many IV bags currently contain DEHP, which is added to improve the plastic's flexibility but can pose serious health dangers to patients. The measure also prevents manufacturers from replacing DEHP with similar ortho-phthalates and encourages the transition to safer alternatives while

preserving limited exemptions for specialized blood collection and cell therapy products.

The Senate has approved its own version of the measure, and the House version now goes to the Senate for consideration.

"An Act relative to toxic-free medical devices is a straightforward bill that aims to protect patients — especially infants, children, pregnant women and those with cancer from being unnecessarily exposed to harmful chemicals," said House sponsor Rep.

Jim O'Day (D-West Boylston). "Long-term exposure to DEHP in medical instruments like IV bags and tubing has long raised concerns in the medical community, particularly when safer alternatives are available ... Our state has never waited for others to set the standard on patient safety."

(A "Yes" vote us for the bill.)

Rep. Christine Barber Yes
Rep. Mike Connolly Yes
Rep. Paul Donato Yes
Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven Yes

ILLUMINATING PUBLIC SPACES (S 3145)

By Bob Katzen

Senate 39-0, approved and sent to the House a bill that supporters say would improve how public spaces are illuminated and would help protect public health and safety; reduce energy consumption; safeguard wildlife and ecosystems; and lower long-term costs for municipalities.

Provisions include requiring all new and replacement publicly funded outdoor lighting fixtures to meet industry standards and best practices for reducing light pollution and minimizing glare; directing the Department of Energy Resources to establish regulations governing the brightness, shielding and design of public outdoor lighting; establishing a cheaper electric rate for low-wattage street lamps which would help cities and towns trim their electric costs if they use the low-wattage lights; cutting down on extra

light poles to ensure the number of streetlamps along a roadway matches the level needed for traffic and pedestrian safety; and exempting light fixtures related to safety or security needs, including lights related to aviation and nautical safety, and temporary emergency, repair and construction lighting.

"Light pollution poses real challenges for public health, public safety and environmental protection," said sponsor Senate Majority Leader Cindy Creem (D-Newton). "It can disrupt sleep, create dangerous glare for drivers and pedestrians, waste energy and interfere with wildlife and natural ecosystems. [The bill] is a common-sense measure that will help municipalities save money, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve public lighting by prioritizing warmer, properly shielded fixtures."

"This legislation strikes a

vital balance of reducing unnecessary light pollution, conserving energy, and protecting both wildlife and the night sky," said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland). "By introducing a lower electric rate for streetlights, mandating fully shielded fixtures and setting a warmer color temperature, we're helping cities and towns cut costs while improving public safety and environmental health. It's a cost-effective, science-based step to ensure future lighting installations respect our dark skies—and to ensure future generations are able to experience the natural wonder of gazing up at our starry skies."

(A "Yes" vote is for the bill.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

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AG CAMPBELL WINS \$475,000 SETTLEMENT AGAINST FOOD COMPANIES

By Bob Katzen

Attorney General Andrea Campbell announced a settlement agreement with two food provision companies for violating Massachusetts's Animal Cruelty Prevention Law. The agreement resolves allegations that the companies misled Massachusetts consumers and unfairly competed in the marketplace by selling products derived from farm

animals confined in a cruel and unlawful manner.

The companies, Connecticut-based City Line Distributors LLC and New Hampshire-based Poultry Products Company of New England LLC, each operating in Massachusetts as Prime Source Foods, will pay \$495,000 in penalties to the state and must refrain from selling noncompliant

meat and eggs to Massachusetts consumers. The settlement also requires Prime Source to implement resource planning systems to prevent future noncompliance.

"Massachusetts consumers deserve to know that the meat and egg products they purchase do not come from cruelly treated farm animals," said Campbell. "I will continue working to ensure that all products sold in

the commonwealth comply with our legal standards and that no company gets an unfair advantage by breaking the law."

"MDAR has long recognized that animal welfare is directly tied to animal health," said Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) Commissioner Ashley Randle. MDAR has long recognized that animal welfare is directly tied to animal

health. Massachusetts residents overwhelmingly support the humane treatment of animals within our food system to promote high-quality food and ethical agricultural practices," said Randle. "We are grateful for our partnership with the Attorney General's Office to enforce these vital standards on behalf of our consumers and farmers

MAKE IT EASIER TO CANCEL SUBSCRIPTIONS

By Bob Katzen

A proposed law that would require companies to make it easier to cancel subscriptions was included in Gov. Healey's version and the Senate's version of the fiscal 2027 state budget, but the House did not include it in their version. The conference committee that hammered out a compromise version of the budget chose not to include the requirement in its version

which was approved by the House and Senate and sent to Gov. Healey. The proposed law would have required that methods of canceling a subscription are as simple as the methods of signing up for that one. The idea has gathered support as many entertainment options shift into monthly subscription models, leaving individuals to manage a portfolio of differing payment cycles.

House Ways and Means Chairman Aaron Michlewitz (D-Boston), who led budget talks on the part of the House, said that the proposal still needs some work but added that he's sure the issue will resurface, possibly very soon. "From the House side, I don't think it's that we were averse to the discussions" he said. "I think it was just more about the mechanics, how to make it actually be meaningful and work, and I don't think,

from our end, we were there yet."

"I think the attorney general has already put some regs out there," continued Michlewitz, referring to subscription rules issued by Attorney General Andrea Campbell last year. "I'm not saying that those are the final decision or the final direction to go, but I do think we're examining that, while also having a further conversa-

tion related to how to put this into statute. He noted that the proposed regulations will be considered soon as part of an upcoming Economic Development bill this year or early next year.

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Trade Pavement for Plants: Apply for an East Somerville Cooling Grant



East Somerville residents can receive up to \$5,000 to remove asphalt or concrete and add trees, plants, and shade

SOMERVILLE – The City of Somerville’s Sustainability and Environment Division (SED) is now accepting applications for Cooling East Somerville, offering eligible East Somerville residents up to \$5,000 to remove pavement from

their property and replace it with shade trees, plants, and other cooling landscape improvements.

“Extreme heat is not just uncomfortable. It’s a real public health risk, and we know that heavily paved areas feel that risk more intensely,” said Mayor Jake Wilson. “This program gives East Somerville residents a practical way to cool their homes and yards, add

more greenery, and help make the neighborhood more resilient summer by summer.”

How the Program Works East Somerville residents with a paved driveway, paved yard, or similar paved area on their property are encouraged to reach out to the City to apply for the program and schedule an initial site visit.

If a property is eligible and conditionally accepted, Green & Open Somerville will work with the resident to remove the pavement. Green & Open Somerville will coordinate volunteers, dumpster permits and fees, and food for volunteers. Residents will then work with City staff to decide

what to plant in the new garden area. After planting, residents may receive reimbursement for eligible garden costs, up to \$5,000.

Go to voice.somervillema.gov/cooling-east-somerville to learn more and apply. Interested residents can also contact Elyse Belarge at ebelarge@somervillema.gov or 781-823-9332.

About the Cooling East Somerville Project Paved surfaces like concrete and asphalt can be up to 10 degrees Fahrenheit hotter than nearby unpaved, vegetated areas. Removing pavement and adding trees and plants can help provide shade, reduce heat around homes, improve air quality, support birds and

pollinators, and create more attractive outdoor space. Through the Cooling East Somerville project, SED is helping residents reduce heat on their properties, create more usable green space, and support a cooler, healthier neighborhood.

Cooling East Somerville is funded by the Barr Foundation and led by Cambridge Health Alliance, Culture-House, and the City of Somerville. The program uses a multi-tiered approach to address heat risks at the individual, community, and built environment levels so residents can stay safer during summer heat.

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Somerville/Medford Remembering Cheryl Dianne Cooper (nee Sweeney)



Heaven just got a little brighter- and a little louder. With hearts full of gratitude and sadness, we announce the passing of our adored mother, Cheryl Dianne Cooper (nee Sweeney), who peacefully took her last breath surrounded by her children and grandson on June 29, 2026, at the age of 72 after a valiant, long battle with lung disease. A gentle spirited woman of great kindness, strength, and grace, she lived life always leading with her heart. She was the humble heartbeat of our family. Her warmth and care for others is what everyone remembers most. Her home was always open

to anyone in need. She judged no one and offered warmth and kindness to all.

Born in Calais, Maine, with five brothers, she was known as "Peanut" or "Biscuit" as her dad called her because she was "too salty to be a cupcake." She spent summers raking blueberries with her brothers, "fishing" at the little family pond, catching fireflies and tadpoles. At age 12, she moved to Charlestown, Massachusetts, and quickly became the underdog's champion, not allowing anyone to stand alone. She eventually attended Somerville High School.

She fell in love, got married and started a family. She took great pride in her family and her six children. Later in life she worked extremely hard as a painter and ran her own small painting business where she enjoyed being a boss among men. She considered family her greatest accomplishment. Above all else her most cherished job was mother and grandmother.

Cheryl spent her later years in Nashua, NH, where you could often find her putting about the garden planting and teaching her grandsons about different flowers. Most recently she spent her time enjoying her grandchildren, doing puzzles, playing Connect Four, reading, watching her favorite shows, knitting mittens for those in need and listening to music on YouTube.

Her legacy will forever live on in the lives she touched, the gentle strength she inspired and

the love she gave so freely. She will be deeply missed, forever remembered, and always loved.

She is predeceased by her father Bernard Sweeney, mother Lottie Campbell, son, Murray Daniel Cooper, brothers Stafford Sweeney, Sherwood Pulk, Wayne Sweeney, brother-in-law Danny Cooper. She is survived by five children: daughter, Nena Cooper, daughter, Rhiannon Cooper, son, John Cooper, daughter, Katie Cooper & wife Legacy, son, Peter Cooper & partner Alex Davis, Lisette, brother, Larry Sweeney, brother Glenn Campbell & wife Dez Campbell, grandchildren, Ally & Liam, Damanni & Kingston, and Dinesa & Kaiden. She is also survived by sister-in-laws Georgina Cooper, Sandra Cooper and many loving nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

The family wishes to express their sincere gratitude to the doctors,

respiratory therapists, nurses, and staff, for their compassion and the exceptional care shown to Cheryl Cooper. Your dedication and support brought great comfort to her and our entire family during a very difficult time.

Assisting the family with arrangements is Phaneuf Funeral Homes and Crematorium, Nashua. Following cremation, family and friends are invited to attend a Memorial Gathering on Thursday, July 9, 2026, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. and immediately following for those that wish to attend, a Memorial Service will be held from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Services will be held at Phaneuf Funeral Homes & Crematorium, 26 Kinsley Street, Nashua, NH 03060.

To view Cheryl's Online Tribute, send condolences to the family, or for more information, visit <http://www.phaneuf.net>.

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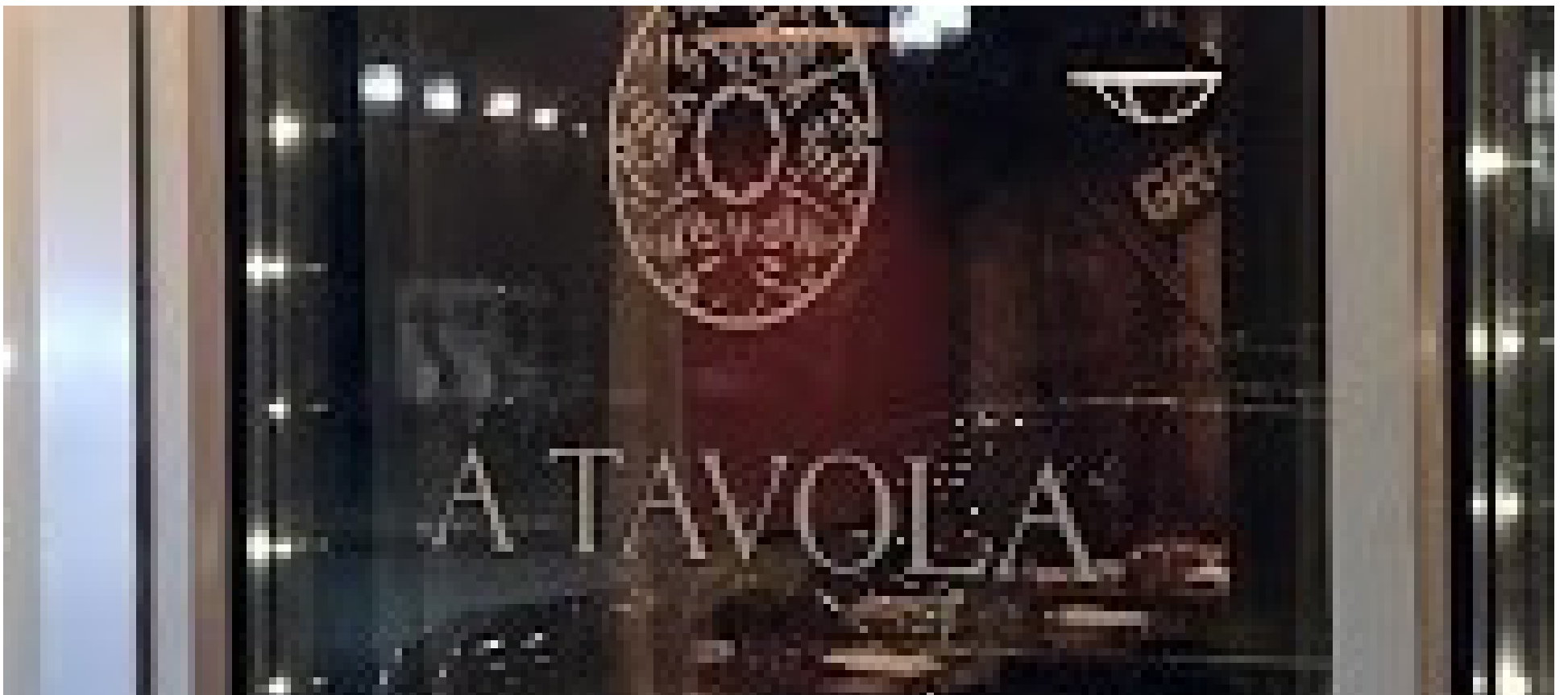
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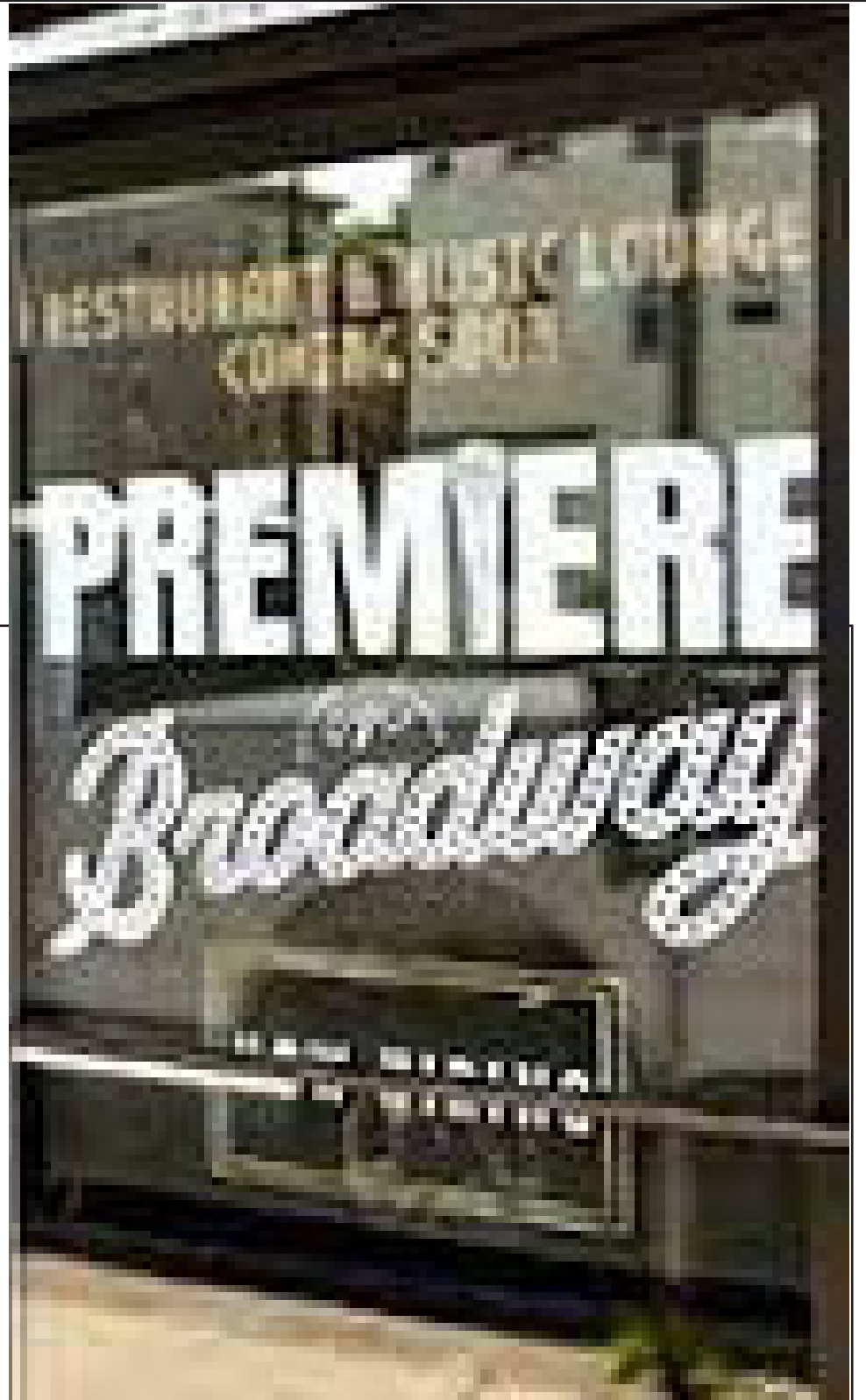
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